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Hurricanes Katrina and Rita – Frequently Asked Questions – Medicare Issues

Note: This article was revised to contain Web addresses that conform to the new CMS web site and to show they are now MLN Matters articles. All other information remains the same.

Provider Types Affected

All providers who are affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita or serving Medicare patients affected by those hurricanes

Key Points

This article contains important information about Medicare issues resulting from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has posted pertinent information on its web site at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Emergency/01_overview.asp#TopOfPage on the CMS web site. This web site is updated on a daily basis.

The information on this site includes the following:

A Question and Answer Document

This document was created to answer frequently asked questions about Medicare issues resulting from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Please review each question and answer and take appropriate action to implement them into your claims process. Account and document all activities associated with implementing these instructions. (To view this information, select the *Question and Answer* section on page (http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Emergency/02_Hurricanes.asp#TopOfPage) and then select the category desired (e.g., Section 1135, General, Ambulance, etc.).

Hurricane Katrina Electronic Mailing List

This is an electronic mailing list service for those interested in receiving news automatically via e-mail from the CMS.

Hurricane Katrina: What Government Is Doing

This Department of Homeland Security web site focuses on the government's response to Hurricane Katrina - including links to:

- How to Get Help;
- Donations and Volunteering;

Disclaimer

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- Finding Friends and Information;
- Health and Safety; and
- A link to Hurricane Katrina-related information in Spanish.

Fact Sheet: CMS Actions to Help Beneficiaries, Providers in Katrina Stricken Areas

This link leads to specific Medicare-related hurricane relief information for healthcare providers who furnish medical services related to Hurricane Katrina.

Phone Numbers for State Medical Assistance Offices

This web page contains contact information for all states; related websites; and resources (a download of the Helpful Contacts tool).

State Health Officials Letter and 1115 Model Waiver Template

This links to state Medicaid directors' information, including:

- A Letter to State Medicaid Directors and State Children's Health Insurance Program Directors;
- An Application Template – Medicaid and SCHIP Coverage for Evacuees of Hurricane Katrina;
- Information on Evacuee Eligibility Simplification Based on Home State Eligibility Rules; and
- Medicaid Eligibility Groups – Income and Resource Limits.

Approved Katrina 1115 Waiver Information

This web page contains approved Katrina 1115 Waiver documents for the states of Alabama, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Mississippi, and Texas, including an Approval Letter, the Terms and Conditions, and the Attachments for each of the states.

Hurricane Information from the Department of Health and Human Services

Topics on this page include:

- What HHS is Doing;
- Health and Safety;
- How to Get Help;
- Donate and Volunteer;
- Finding Friends and Information;
- What Other Federal Agencies are Doing; and
- Key State Government Agencies in the Region.

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Hurricane Katrina Medicare Contractor and CMS Regional Office Contacts

This web page informs Medicare providers about relevant contact points for those in the affected areas; and notifies providers about a list of Questions and Answers available online at <http://www.cms.gov> in the "Highlights" section.

Signed Waiver Under Section 1135 of the Social Security Act 9/4/2005

Section 1135 of the Social Security Act allows the Secretary of Health and Human Services to waive or modify certain Medicare, Medicaid, or State Children's Health Insurance Program requirements in order to protect the public health and welfare in times of national crisis. On Wednesday August 31, 2005, Secretary Michael Leavitt notified the Congress that he was invoking this authority, as a consequence of Hurricane Katrina, in order to protect the health and welfare of the public in areas impacted by this crisis. CMS is taking action consistent with this authority to ensure that the people in these areas receive all necessary health care services.

Hurricane Katrina Recovery Information from FirstGov.gov

Links on this page include:

- Find Family and Friends;
- How to Get Help;
- Shelter and Housing for Survivors;
- Donate and Volunteer;
- Health and Safety;
- What Government is Doing; and
- Frequently Asked Questions.

Katrina Information Resources

Links on this page include:

- National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) Resources; and
- CCD information related to Tetanus Prevention, non-01 and non-0139 Vibrio cholerae; and
- Cancer Patient Resources for Hurricane Katrina.

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